



Security Design & High-Risk Users



A CRYPTO NERD'S
IMAGINATION:

HIS LAPTOP'S ENCRYPTED.
LET'S BUILD A MILLION-DOLLAR
CLUSTER TO CRACK IT.



WHAT WOULD
ACTUALLY HAPPEN:

HIS LAPTOP'S ENCRYPTED.
DRUG HIM AND HIT HIM WITH
THIS \$5 WRENCH UNTIL
HE TELLS US THE PASSWORD.



Security is not about computers.

People built computers to accomplish tasks.

People built more computers and networked them to accomplish more tasks.

Those computers got compromised.

People paid us to fix the problem.

We made the mistake of thinking they meant us to fix the computers.

Having made this mistake, we built an entire industry around solving the wrong problem.

People built yet more computers and networks.

We realized we couldn't secure them individually and started looking at probabilities and scaling.

We never did fix the problem.

Security is the set of activities that reduce the likelihood of a set of adversaries successfully frustrating the goals of a set of users.

The ability to define and determine what a technical system will and will not do is necessary but not sufficient to determine whether it is secure.

Defining security for a system means understanding what your humans want.

Security design is the process of understanding user culture, goals, and workflows, organizational technical capabilities, and adversary capabilities and dispositions and synthesizing a satisficing solution.

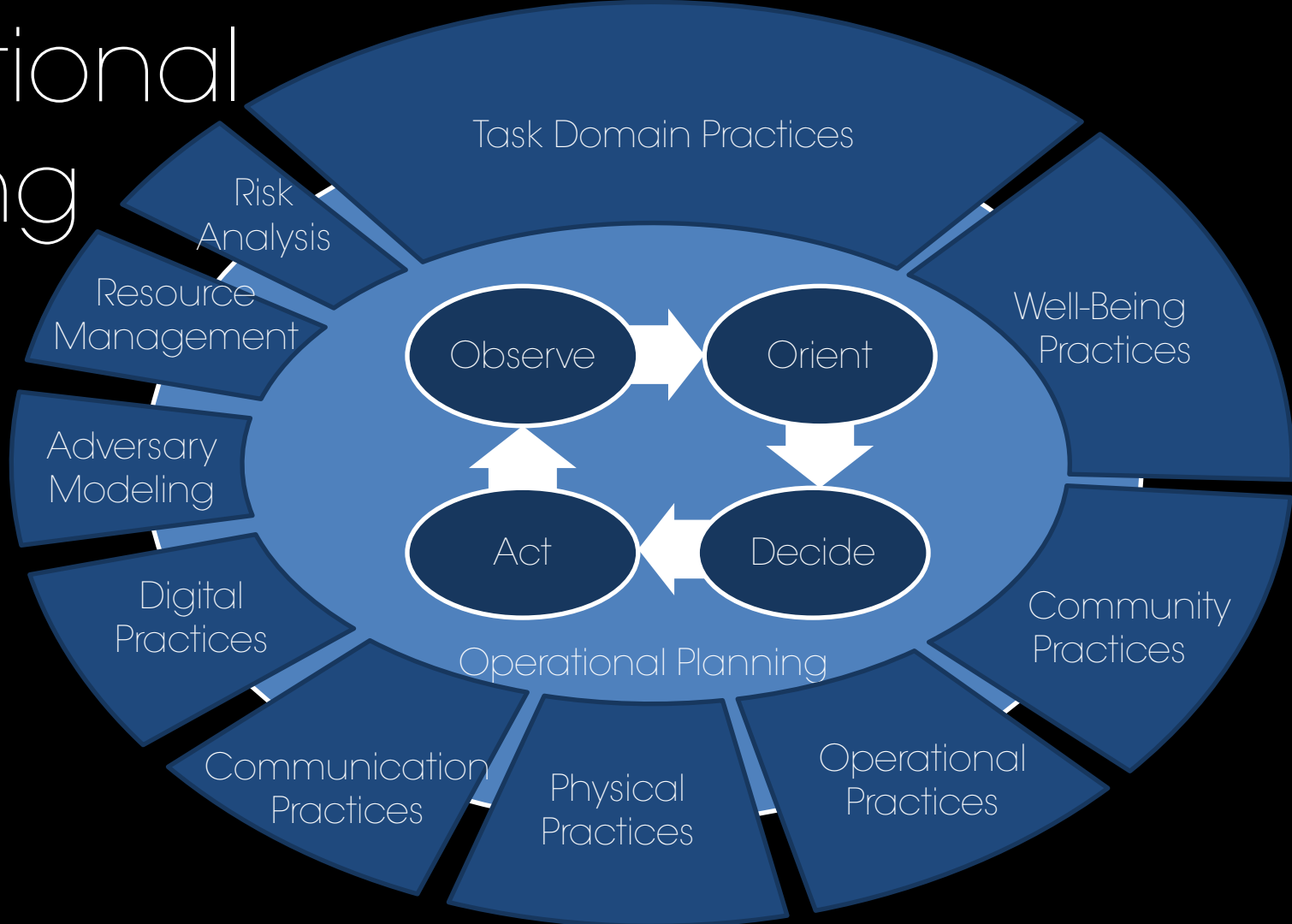
Outcomes
are messy



Understanding the Operations Process

- Planning in the presence of an adversary
- OODA Loops
- Cognitive overhead
- Operational utility
- Functional deployability

Operational Planning



Worse

Efficacy

is

Better

Invariants

The diagram displays ten invariants arranged in a circular pattern around a central point. The invariants are: Confidentiality, Efficacy, Availability, Deployability, Integrity, Interoperability, Simplicity, Trust, Nonrepudiation, and Unlinkability. The arrangement is as follows:

- Confidentiality (bottom-left)
- Efficacy (bottom-left, next to Confidentiality)
- Availability (middle-left)
- Deployability (top-left)
- Integrity (top-right)
- Interoperability (top-right, below Integrity)
- Simplicity (top-right)
- Trust (middle-right)
- Nonrepudiation (middle-right, above Trust)
- Unlinkability (bottom-right)

Invariants

Accuracy

Adaptability

Agility

Anticipation

Assurance

Availability

Awareness

Capacity

Coherence

Concealment

Confidentiality

Continuity

Control

Completeness

Cooperation

Coordination

Deception

Deployability

Deniability

Depth

Deterrence

Discipline

Dispersion

Economy

Efficacy

Endurance

Exposure

Identifiability

Initiative

Integration

Integrity

Interoperability

Goodwill

Mobility

Nonrepudiation

Objectivity

Precision

Predictability

Readiness

Receptivity

Redundancy

Relevancy

Resilience

Responsiveness

Simplicity

Simultaneity

Surprise

Survivability

Synchronization

Trust

Timeliness

Susceptibility

Uncertainty

Unlinkability

Unpredictability

Velocity

Legibility



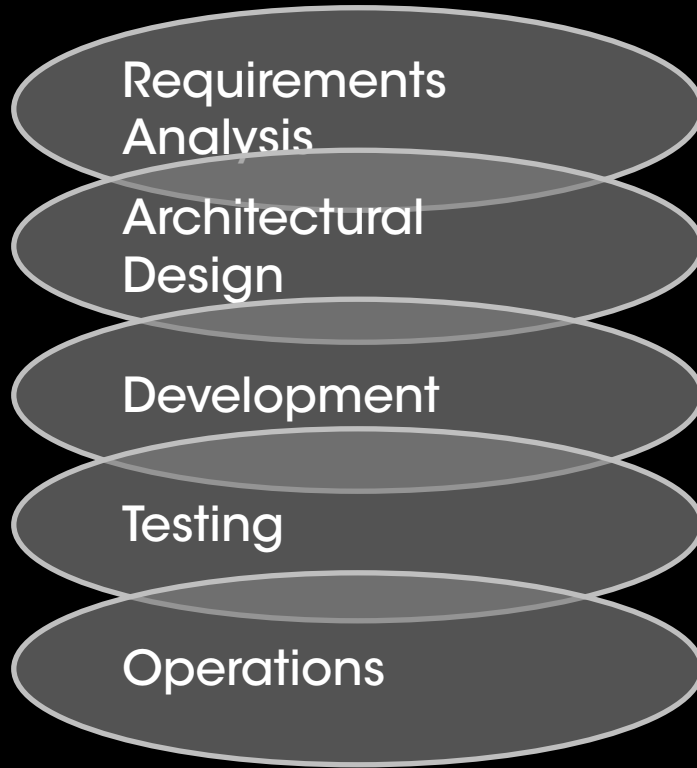
Design

- Understanding, documenting, and communicating constraints and capabilities
- Synthesize and validate potential solutions
- Communicate and justify those solutions
- Support the development process & prevent drift

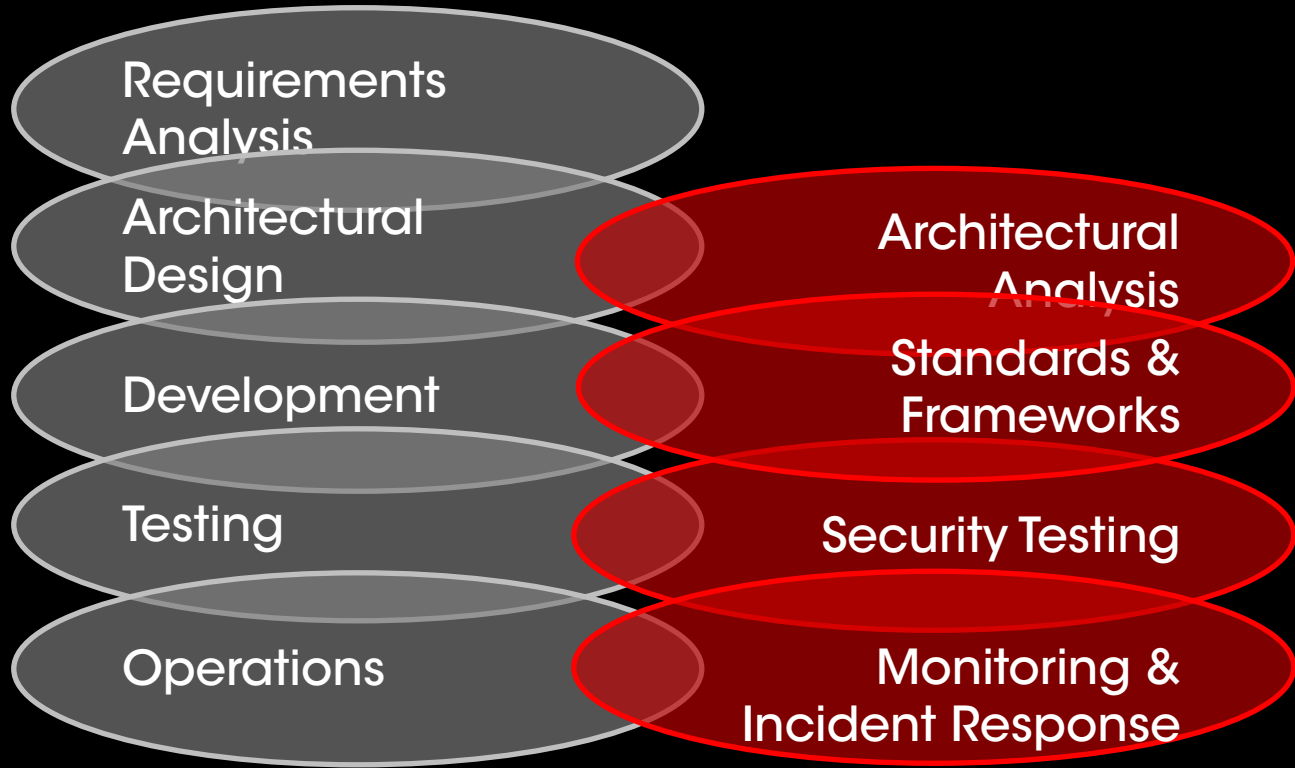
Participatory Design

- Recognize users as authorities on their goals
- Deep cultural engagement for complex scenarios
- Surface tacit and embodied knowledge
- Build long-term community trust
- Short-circuit long development processes
- Create blended countermeasures
- Minimize team ego

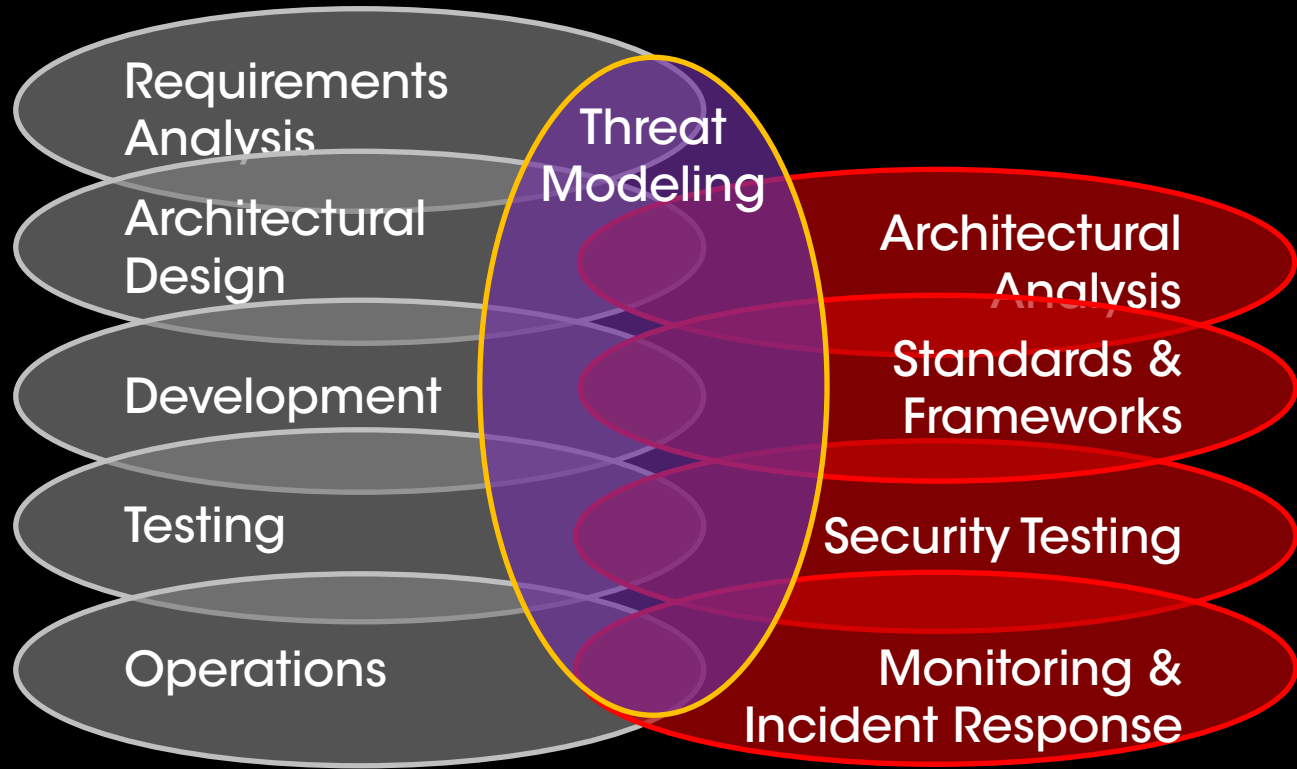
Mapping the Security Task



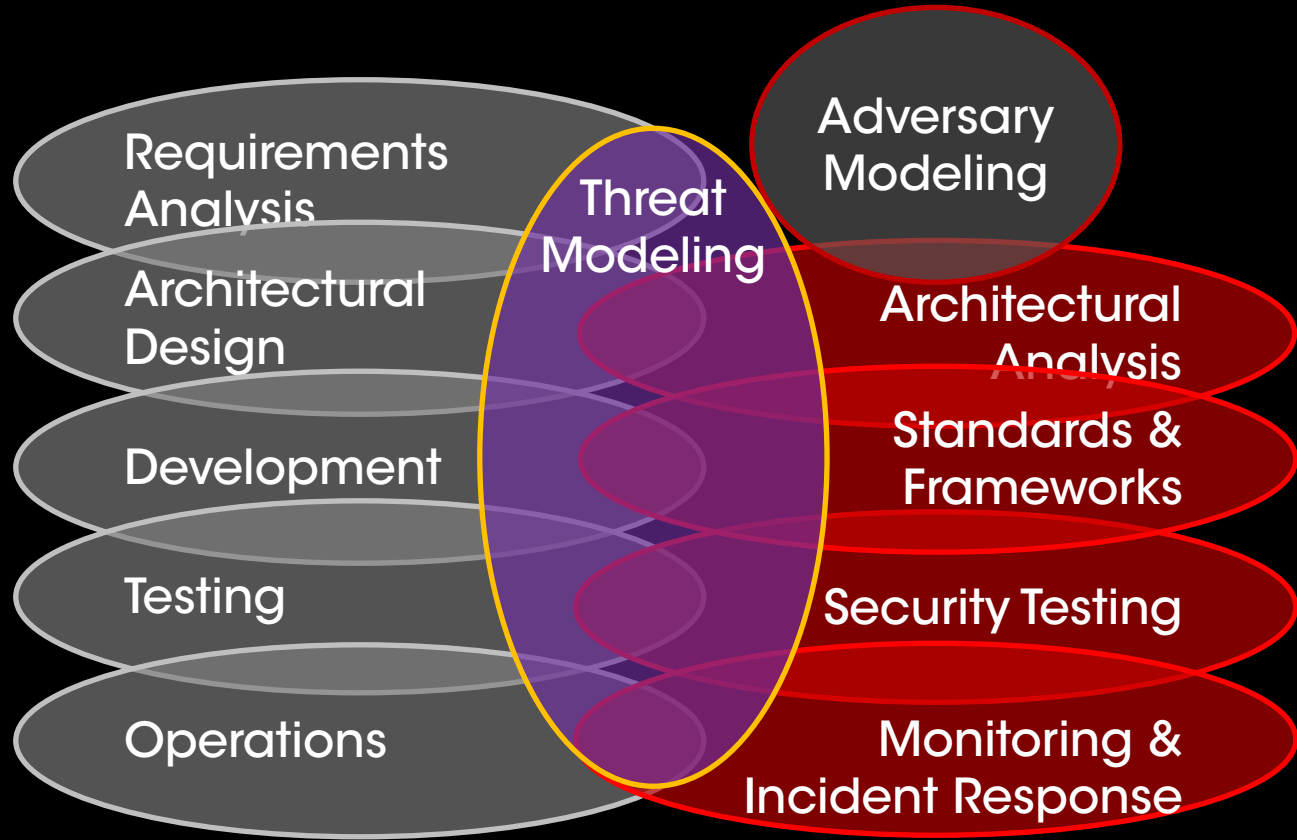
Mapping the Security Task



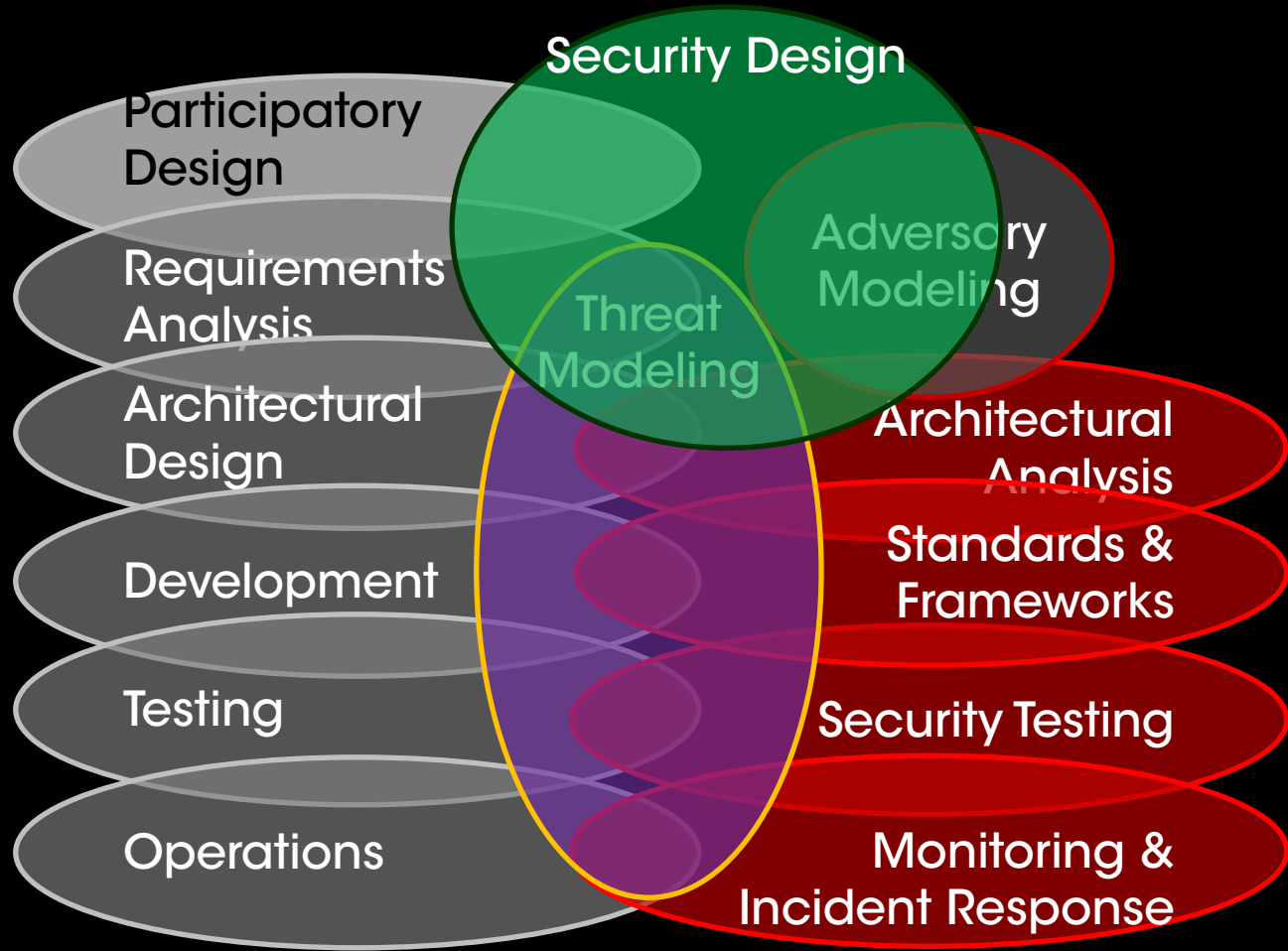
Mapping the Security Task



Mapping the Security Task



Mapping the Security Task



Practical Process Change

- Find your UX designers and product managers
- Insist on coming to all of their meetings
- Learn their language and process
- Learn what your users are actually trying to do
- Design requirements-level security support
- Document and solidify once you have results
- Give yourself room to fail
- Work across your org to center user goals

Thank you!

^{http}
ella@dymaxion.org
_{twitter}

Support my security
research and writing:

<http://patreon.com/dymaxion>



HITB GSEC 2015

Security Design and High-Risk Users